U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 7, 2003

Swanton Sector Agent Receives Award

Contact: Joseph Mellia at (802) 868-3361

Swanton, Vermont – Leslie Lawson, an Assistant Chief Patrol Agent at the Swanton Border Patrol Sector, was presented the "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" award by the National Center for Women and Policing in Los Angeles, Calif., last month.

The National Center promotes increasing the numbers of women at all ranks of law enforcement and each year presents awards to women who have achieved the highest ranks within their organizations.

Assistant Chief Lawson has been a Border Patrol Agent for 11 years and began her career with the Border Patrol in San Diego, Calif. Lawson was promoted to a supervisory position in Ramey, Puerto Rico, and later became the first female Patrol Agent in Charge in the Ramey Border Patrol Sector.

Lawson, who was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief in August 2002, is the first female Border Patrol Agent to achieve that rank in Swanton Sector. Lawson is a native Vermonter who attended Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, Vt., and the University of Vermont.